

Message Text

SECRET

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43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SAM-01 SAB-01 IO-10 ACDA-05

SAJ-01 AF-06 /083 W

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O 031236Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 7702

INFO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA NIACT IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON NIACT IMMEDIATE

USUN NIACT IMMEDIATE 1315

USNATO NIACT IMMEDIATE 2044

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV NIACT IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR NIACT IMMEDIATE

DIA NIACT IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ATHENS 1704

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PINR, MOPS, PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJ: PRESS GUIDANCE ON RECONNAISSANCE FLIGHTS

FROM GREECE INTO EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

REFS: (A) NICOSIA 0862; (B) STATE 059928 DTG 311702Z

MAR 73 (NOTAL)

1. PRESS STORY REPORTED PARAGRAPH 3 REF A ALMOST CERTAIN TO BE PICKED UP BY GREEK PRESS AND IN THAT EVENT QUITE LIKELY TO STIMULATE FURTHER REACTION, SUCH AS PARLIAMENTARY QUERIES, EDITORIALS, ETC. WHICH WILL NOT BE HELPFUL IN OUR EFFORTS TO MAINTAIN IMPORTANT US MILITARY ACTIVITIES IN GREECE. OUR RECOMMENDATION FOR PRESS GUIDANCE SET FORTH PARA. 2 BELOW, THEREFORE IS

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DESIGNED TO PUT MATTER IN A CONTEXT WHICH WE BELIEVE TO

BE LEAST CONTROVERSIAL IN GREECE. IN ADDITION, WE BELIEVE THAT GUIDANCE MUST BE AS CONSISTENT AS POSSIBLE WITH INFORMATION, PROVIDED REF B, CONCERNING RECONNAISSANCE OPERATIONS PROVIDED TO GOG IN APRIL 1973 IN AFTERMATH OF MARCH 1973 LARAF ATTACK ON A C-130.

2. IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES FROM PRESS, WE SUGGEST FOLLOWING GENERAL THEME SHOULD BE PURSUED: QUOTE US MILITARY FLIGHT OPERATIONS OVER INTERNATIONAL WATERS ARE CONDUCTED ON A CONTINUING BASIS FROM AIRFIELDS IN MANY PARTS OF THE WORLD. SOME FLIGHTS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN AREA ORIGINATE FROM US-UTILIZED FACILITIES IN GREECE. ALL SUCH FLIGHTS ARE PART OF THE COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEM WHICH KEEPS SIXTH FLEET UNITS INFORMED OF THE SITUATION IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.
KUBISCH

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NNN

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